

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A vibration suppressing cutting tool comprising a holder having a shank formed with a pocket in which a vibration suppressing piece which is not coupled to said holder is received so as not to be able to come off said pocket, wherein at least portions of the inner wall of said pocket that knock against said vibration suppressing piece or portions of the surface of said vibration suppressing piece that knock against said inner wall of said pocket are flat surfaces, whereby said vibration suppressing piece knock against the inner wall of said pocket along surfaces or at a plurality of portions when the holder vibrates during cutting, and the flat surfaces extend in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of vibration of the holder during cutting, the vibration direction being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shank.

14. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said portions of the inner wall of said pocket that knock against said vibration suppressing piece and said portions of the surface of said vibration suppressing piece that knock against said inner wall of said pocket are both flat surfaces.

15. (Currently Amended) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said portions of the inner wall of said pocket comprise first and second flat surfaces opposed to each other, and said portions of the surface of said vibration suppressing piece comprise third and fourth flat surfaces facing said first and second flat surfaces, respectively, with a clearance defined between said first and second surfaces and said vibration suppressing piece, said first, second, third and fourth flat surfaces extending in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the shank pocket has first and second flat inner wall surfaces opposed to each other, and wherein said vibration suppressing piece has third and fourth flat surfaces and is received in said pocket such that said third and fourth surfaces face said first and second surfaces, respectively, with a clearance defined between said first and second surfaces and said vibration suppressing piece, said first, second, third and fourth surfaces being oriented so as to cross the direction in which said holder vibrates during cutting.

16. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said pocket and said vibration suppressing piece have rectangular sections that are perpendicular to a central axis of said shank, said vibration suppressing piece having surfaces configured to abut a pair of opposed inner wall surfaces of said pocket and each having a greater area than other surfaces of said vibration suppressing piece.

17. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein between said vibration suppressing piece and a pair of opposed inner wall surfaces of said pocket, a clearance in the range of 0.01 to 0.5 mm is defined.

18. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said pocket has a section perpendicular to a central axis of said shank and having a width w that is 20 to 100% of the diameter D or width W of said shank, and a height h, which is a distance between a pair of inner wall surfaces, said height h being 5 to 70% of the height H of said shank.

19. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said pocket has an axial length c that is 50 to 250% of the diameter D or height H of said shank, and is displaced toward the front end of said tool.

20. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said vibration suppressing piece is made of a material having a specific gravity that is equal to or greater than the specific gravity of the material forming said shank.

21. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein a pair of opposed inner wall surfaces of said pocket extend substantially perpendicular to the direction in which said holder vibrates during cutting.

22. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said vibration suppressing piece comprises a plurality of separate subpieces received in a single pocket or each received in one of a plurality of independent pockets.

23. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said pocket is formed from one side of said holder, said vibration suppressing cutting tool further comprising a piece holding means or sealing means for holding said vibration suppressing piece in said pocket.

24. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 23 wherein said pocket is formed from one side of said holder opposite to the other side of the holder where a cutting edge is located, said pocket being a blind hole that does not reach said other side of said holder.

25. (Previously Presented) The vibration suppressing cutting tool of claim 13 wherein said holder comprises a shank and a head that is a separate member from said shank, wherein said pocket is open to the front end of said shank, and wherein with said vibration suppressing piece received in said pocket, the opening of said pocket is closed with said head by joining said head to the front end of said shank.

26. (Cancelled)